



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Charleston Riverview Hotel
Charleston, S.C.

October 21-22, 2002

Members Present

David Adcock
Meryl Alalof
Judy Barnett
Nancy Ann Ciehanski
Ann Shaw
Beckie Dawson
Gerald Devitt
Mel Galin
Perry Holcomb
William Lawrence

JG Long
Jimmy Mackey
Dorene Richardson
Lola Richardson
Dalton Murray
Jean Sulc
Bill Vogelee
Wade Waters
Carolyn Williams
Gloria Williams-Way
Bill Willoughby

Ex-Officio Members
Tom Heenan (DOE)
Charlie Anderson (DOE)
Jim Brownlow (SCDHEC)
Keith Collinsworth
(SCDHEC)
Riley Jay Bassett (EPA)
Jim Sanders (State of
Georgia)

Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members Ken Goad, Heather Simmons and Marty Stringer were unable to attend. CAB Member Vera Jordan resigned from the Board in August. The meeting opened with Tom Heenan, DOE, serving as Designated Federal Official. Mike Schoener served as facilitator and the Board's Technical Advisor Rick McLeod was present. The meeting was posted in the Federal Register in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and was open to the public.

Agency Updates

Tom Heenan, DOE, referred to the Operations Update (see attached). He emphasized that all goals were met in Fiscal Year 2002. He also announced that DOE is in a continuing resolution and authorized to operate at the FY02 funding level until the end of the year. He emphasized that more budget communications are needed with the public, however the dialogue should focus on risk reduction and the work required. He stated a more important dialogue is whether DOE has correctly placed contractor performance incentives in alignment with stakeholder priorities.

Jeffrey Allison, DOE-SR Acting Manager, presented the SRS history book to the CAB. Each Board member was provided a compact disc of the book as well.

Jay Bassett, EPA, introduced himself and noted that he had an additional regional project manager assigned to SRS. Dawn Taylor will be spending half of her time on SRS closures.

Keith Collinsworth referred to a letter from South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges to Secretary Spencer Abraham regarding waste incidental reprocessing and the fact that SCDHEC will not be providing final approval regarding DOE's waste incidental to reprocessing determination at SRS until the court case in Idaho is resolved (see attachment).

Key Decisions Made by the Board

The Board approved a letter to Mr. Jeff Allison regarding two trip reports made by Paul Golan of DOE-Headquarters.

The Board adopted a recommendation requesting that where feasible, DOE/SRS presenters incorporate four prime elements, including program plans, budgets, technology, and long term stewardship into all presentations made to the SRS CAB.

Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the July CAB meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comments

No public comments were received on Monday, October 21. Board member Judy Barnett commented that hazardous materials are a serious matter during the October 22 morning public comment session.

Facilitator Update

Mike Schoener provided a recommendation status report noting that 12 recommendations are pending, four are open and 140 are closed. Mr. Schoener also provided an Executive Committee meeting update. There was brief discussion regarding realignment of the Board in light of the site realignment. Mr. Schoener also discussed the path forward for a process retreat and provided a list of potential dates for the next retreat. Board members continued discussions regarding the potential need for reorganization as the EM Program is changing, which will be a subject of a process retreat. Mr. Schoener also discussed the need for another workplan session. He proposed that the January Monday session of the full Board meeting be a focused session to develop the workplan for 2003.

Chair Update

Wade Waters provided a trip report from the meeting of the Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs Meeting held October 18-19 in Knoxville, TN. He discussed site specific issues discussed by each of the Boards (see attachment) and noted that most Boards had more involvement in their Performance Management Plans. He asked Acting Site Manager Jeff Allison to ensure more involvement for the SRS CAB. He also discussed remarks by Assistant Secretary Jessie

Roberson regarding the DOE Performance Management Plans, ten special project teams, the Environmental Management Advisory Board and the Alternatives Technologies to Incineration Committee. Mr. Waters discussed an SSAB Transuranic Waste Workshop to be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico in late January. Wade Waters, Jean Sulc, Bill Willoughby, Gerald Devitt and Dorene Richardson will attend the workshop for the SRS CAB along with support staff.

Wade Waters presented a draft letter to the Acting DOE Site Manager regarding two reports by Paul Golan of DOE-Headquarters. The Board was in support of providing this letter to DOE.

Strategic Initiatives Committee Report

Strategic Initiatives Committee Chair Mel Galin presented a draft recommendation regarding presentations and briefings to the Board (see attachment). This recommendation strives to ensure the CAB receives useful, timely information. Mr. Galin presented a letter from the committee to the Board (see attachment), which discussed the basis for the committee recommendation. The recommendation asked that where feasible, DOE/SRS presenters incorporate four prime elements, including program plans, budgets, technology, and long term stewardship. Meryl Alalof moved the motion be adopted and Nancy Ann Ciechanski seconded the motion.

Bill Willoughby discussed concerns with the recommendation and the fact that the checklist may become a measure for the presentations. He also noted concern that presentations will be even more lengthy. Meryl Alalof supported the recommendation as a tool to keep presentations on track. Jimmy Mackey requested that it be made clear the recommendation was not a mandatory requirement for presenters. Gerald Devitt noted his concern that if presenters have all the requested information, then decisions have been made and the CAB misses an opportunity for early involvement in the decision-making process. David Adcock suggested the Board members look at this recommendation from the perspective of the presenter. Following brief discussions, the Board adopted the recommendation by a vote of 17 members in favor, 2 opposed and no abstentions.

David Adcock provided a briefing on the Quarterly Technology Meeting noting attendance and the demonstration of a technology to remove low concentrations of contaminants in groundwater plumes. It was an addition to a baroball technology, which attached a micro blower to the baroball and very cost effectively assisted in improving the efficiency of the remediation technology.

Mel Galin also noted the need for more involvement in the budget process. He also noted that the SRTC Strategic Plan provided and discussed the benefits of plasma technology. Mel Galin announced that a River Trip at SRS is being offered to the CAB on November 13, 2002.

Nuclear Materials Committee Report

John Dickenson, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, provided a presentation regarding SRS Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization Project Status (see attachment). A standard has been developed to provide all sites with a consistent set of requirements. The Packaging and Stabilization Project will provide SRS the ability to meet this standard for plutonium materials. The DOE 3013 Standard requires that plutonium materials be stabilized and placed in robust containers. Stabilization includes brushing loose oxides from plutonium, then heating of the

plutonium oxide to 950 centigrade for two hours and sampling to ensure moisture has been removed.

Mr. Dickenson discussed packaging and surveillance. The SRS program includes packaging plutonium metal in inner containers and a new project underway in FB Line to provide the ability to stabilize oxide and package it in outer containers. The SRS Stabilization and Packaging Project is scheduled for completion by December 2005 with shipment to the K Area Material Storage by September 2006. The cost of the project is \$30 million. Mr. Dickenson discussed project goals and scope and the current status. The project scope, cost and schedule have been approved by DOE, the schedule is on track and cost is meeting budget. The outer can welder is in final checkouts and digital radiography is being assembled. New furnaces are being tested and old furnaces are being removed. Mr. Dickenson provided photographs and further discussed the outer can welder and digital radioagraphy and the qualifications of facility operators. Board members asked many questions regarding the forms of plutonium at SRS, worker safety, facility inspections, final disposition and budget.

In summary, Mr. Dickenson said that the plutonium stabilization and packaging will place material in a safer configuration for long term storage; an aggressive project is underway to provide full packaging and stabilization capability; and safety controls are in place and facility preparations are underway.

Long Term Stewardship Committee Report

Nancy Ann Ciehanski provided a brief report of the Long Term Stewardship Committee. She noted that Todd Crawford will lead a team to review the SRS CAB Vision Report of 1995. The committee has also reviewed long term stewardship plans from Rocky Flats, Idaho and Hanford. She also presented the following committee definition of Long Term Stewardship:

Long Term Stewardship is the stewardship responsibility of all properties and those facilities that need stabilization, cleanup, disposal and remedial action activities at the SRS necessary to ensure long term protection of human health and the environment after DOE has formally determined immediate or anticipated closure of the complete or portion of the SRS.

The Committee has also adopted their Long Term Stewardship Workplan. She noted that committee discussion always includes concern for budget for long term stewardship. She also noted that the general public participates on the committee.

Public Comments

Perry Holcomb commented on risk, stating there is an impetus from DOE-Headquarters to reduce risk. Mr. Holcomb summarized that risk is in the "eye of the beholder." He stated the CAB needs to become more educated and aware of what risk really means to DOE, since the two may not be in alignment.

Gerald Devitt commented that the CAB already had a risk working group and did not need to reinvent the wheel.

Jimmy Mackey commented that the CAB should seek early involvement in the prioritization process. He also stated that National Environmental Policy Act documents are no longer as accessible and now require authorization by DOE for access.

Wade Waters thanked Jeff Allison, Acting Manager for DOE-SR for attending the SRS CAB meeting. He also thanked Harold Conner, Howard Walls, Steve Piccolo and Fran Williams for their attendance as well, all of whom are senior managers for WSRC.

Administrative Committee Report

Lola Richardson presented a proposal to amend the bylaws for Board consideration. Bill Vogele moved the Board adopt the motion and Becki Dawson seconded. Wade Waters discussed the need for some meetings of the leadership of the Board to meet in private and asked the Board not to pass this recommendation so that future leaders of the CAB may meet in private session if needed. He discussed his decision to hold a small meeting of the leadership earlier in the year when he assumed chairmanship of the CAB. He had sought legal counsel prior to scheduling the meeting. Jimmy Mackey discussed the fact that other organizations allow for closed meetings within their bylaws. Perry Holcomb noted that no discussion of programmatic issues could be conducted in a closed meeting. Mr. Holcomb stressed that every opinion of every Board member is as important as the next. He stressed that he was proposing that all aspects of the Board should be conducted in the open. No member should be excluded from a meeting, he said. Mel Galin stated that there are no closed meetings and there is no need for addition at this point. J.G. Long questioned bylaws amendment procedure and Dawn Haygood provided an explanation of the bylaws amendment process. The motion failed with four members in favor and 15 opposed.

Waste Management Committee Report

Bill Willoughby announced that the melter at the Defense Waste Processing Facility is being replaced. He also noted he attended a public meeting on the Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX) Facility that dealt with the waste to be generated by the facility. He noted that this facility and the waste generated will be handled by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) portion of DOE and therefore is not within the purview of the CAB. Perry Holcomb stated he is concerned that DOE can now do anything they want under the auspices of the NNSA. There was extensive discussion regarding CAB involvement in issues that fall within the realm of NNSA. Bill Willoughby emphasized that any citizen can freely comment on NNSA activities as a member of the public, but not the CAB.

High Level Waste Update

Steve Piccolo provided a High Level Waste update (see attached). Regarding the Americium Curium Project, field modifications are complete and cold runs will be complete in November. The actual AmCm will be transferred to Tank 51 by mid-January. Mr. Piccolo discussed salt processing noting that Building 512-A is being restored and the filter test is complete for actinide removal. For low curie salt processing, supernate liquid has been removed from the top of Tank 41 and pumping is complete. Mr. Piccolo discussed the status of the evaporators, two of which are currently operating to manage tank space. Tank Space is being maintained satisfactorily, but when the 3-H Evaporator resumes operations, tank space should reach the excellent status.

Mr. Piccolo discussed the need for another Glass Waste Storage Building. A conceptual design report was transmitted to DOE and WSRC is responding to DOE questions. The cost of the facility is estimated at \$85-\$92 million and is needed by May 2006. Mr. Piccolo also discussed waste removal noting that Tank 19 waste removal is complete and testing is complete at Tank 7 Operations began in October. Tank 18 is scheduled for waste removal to begin in November 2002 and Tank 11 is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2004. Regarding tank closures, Tank 19 is scheduled for closure by March 30, 2004 and Tank 18 is scheduled for closure by June 30, 2004.

Mr. Piccolo stated that FY02 performance for the Defense Waste Processing Facility was 160 canisters. The replacement of the melter is impacting production. He discussed the process for melter replacement, including draining of the melter and emptying the canyon. Mr. Piccolo emphasized that a melter life is approximately 2 years and the current melter lasted eight years. Melter replacement will take approximately six months. Future waste loading will increase due to more waste in a canister, increased pour height and a new frit. WSRC is projecting 230 canisters per year, which is a 280 equivalent for future post melter replacement. Board members asked clarifying questions about melter replacements and asked about performance based incentives for the high level waste program.

Transuranic Waste Update

Sonny Goldston, WSRC, provided a presentation on the Transuranic (TRU) Ship to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Program (see attachment). Mr. Goldston began with a definition of transuranic waste, which is defined by law as "waste containing more than 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting transuranic isotopes per gram of waste, with half-lives greater than 20 years." SRS TRU waste is fifty percent volume Pu239 weapons grade and fifty percent volume Pu238 deep space missions. Pu238 and Pu239 are basically the same physical materials; however, Pu238 is much more difficult to handle since it is more than 250 times more radioactive than Pu239. SRS has eighty percent of the Pu-238 in the DOE complex.

Mr. Goldston discussed TRU shipments to WIPP. SRS completed seven shipments in FY01 and 16 shipments in FY02 as planned. SRS also received a second shipment of TRU waste from Mound. In FY03, three shipments are planned per week starting October 28, 2002. Mr. Goldston discussed the National Transuranic Waste Performance Management Plan, a complex-wide plan emphasizing that SRS is now a major player making 12 shipments per month instead of per year. The accelerated schedule will allow for risk reduction 24 years earlier for low activity waste and 21 years earlier for high activity waste. Mr. Goldston discussed the scale of the SRS legacy TRU challenge. He noted that large bulk containers cannot be shipped in the TRUPACT II.

Regarding the low activity Pu239 TRU accelerated program, all low-activity drums are to be shipped by 2007. A second characterization mobile vendor is being brought in to accelerate the program. The segregation rate is also being increased with the addition of a sort and segregation glove box from Los Alamos. The addition of non-destructive assay equipment also assists in accelerating the program. Mr. Goldston also discussed the acceleration of the high activity TRU program. He noted the challenges with this program, specifically the large black boxes and manipulator sleeves that cannot be transported in the TRUPACT II. SRS is working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to license an existing shipping package for large bulk containerized waste.

Bill Willoughby referred to handouts provided for information only from a recent MOX public meeting (see attachment). He also announced that the Waste Management Committee had asked DOE to provide an update of the impacts of the Idaho lawsuit and the SC Governor's letter on the High Level Waste Program in January.

Environmental Restoration Committee Report

Paul Huber, Bechtel Savannah River Company, provided a presentation on FY02 program highlights for the Environmental Restoration Program. He noted that of 515 waste sites identified, remediation is complete at 316 sites and 350 of 500 acres are complete or in remediation. There are eight groundwater remediation systems running in eleven groundwater contamination areas. Mr. Huber discussed risk reduction sites including the Burial Ground Complex, M-Area Dynamic Underground Stripping, and Reactor Seepage Basins. Mr. Huber discussed natural remedies in Four Mile Branch and the A/M Area Southern Sector where phytoremediation is being utilized. He also discussed the Chemicals, Metals & Pesticides Pits where technologies are being combined to remove subsurface solvents and discussed promising technology for removing solvents in the vadose zone. Mr. Huber discussed microenfractionation, which achieves 99% risk reduction and expedites the closure schedule of the Chemical, Metal and Pesticide Pits by five years at a fourth the cost. Mr. Huber emphasized stakeholder involvement in the ER Program and noted that all regulatory and Federal Facility Agreement milestones were met in FY02. A total cost savings of \$16 million was achieved in FY02 and 22 remediation technologies were deployed or re-deployed. Mr. Huber also provided a preview of FY03 highlights noting major initiatives underway, including Dynamic Underground Stripping at M Area, remediation of the L Reactor Seepage Basin and solvent tank grouting at the Burial Ground Complex.

Handouts

SRS CAB Agenda, October 22, 2002

Operations Update, October 2002

Letter to The Honorable Spencer Abraham from Governor Jim Hodges, dated October 11, 2002

SRS CAB Recommendation Summary Report, dated October 10, 2002

Site Specific Advisory Board Chairs Meeting Trip Report, dated October 21, 2002

Draft Letter to Mr. Jeff Allison from Wade Waters, dated October 23, 2002

Presentation to the CAB and Briefings and Presentations to CAB Committees, Mel Galin, CAB

Memo to Colleagues on the SRS CAB, Mel Galin, CAB

Summary of Proposal to Amend the SRS CAB Bylaws on October 22, 2002

SRS CAB Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Summary

SRS Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization Project Status, John Dickenson, WSRC

SRS CAB FY01-02 Attendance Report

MOX Environmental Review Meeting, Bill Willoughby, CAB

High Level Waste Update, Steve Piccolo, WSRC

Transuranic Ship to WIPP Program, Sonny Goldston, WSRC

Environmental Restoration Fiscal Year 2002 Program Highlights, Paul Huber, BSRI

SRS CAB NEPA Report

SRS CAB Calendar

SRS CAB *Board Beat*, Fall Issue